



PEC UPDATE

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ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Betaseron® Program
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PEC Update Reader Survey
- A1 -

Do you have questions or
comments about the PEC,
TSF, PDLs, DUE criteria, or
PEC Updates?

If so, please call the
Pharmacoeconomic Center
at Fort Sam Houston, San
Antonio, Texas.

DSN 471-4311
Com (210) 221-4311



Betaseron® Program Experience

Betaseron®, produced by Berlex Laboratories, is a new, high cost medication for the treatment of multiple sclerosis. Due to production constraints, the medication has been available in limited quantities. Anticipating an overwhelming demand, the PEC was tasked by the Department of Defense (DOD) to develop and administer an allocation process to ensure appropriate use of this medication in DOD medical treatment facilities (MTFs).

Service neurologists met with PEC staff to devise screening criteria. The criteria were largely based on original research articles outlining the potential benefits of Betaseron®. Funding for the drug was the responsibility of each MTF. The PEC was designated as the liaison between the manufacturer and the MTFs.

The PEC has steadily enrolled patients in the program. As production capacity of the drug increased, Berlex increased DOD access to treatment slots. As a result, all patients submitted for enrollment who met the screening and funding criteria were given access to the medication. No patients were placed on a waiting list.

The screening criteria were effective in limiting patient submissions to those expected to derive some benefit from the therapy. In contrast, the Berlex national lottery program had no underlying screening requirement. The most obvious limiting factor of the DOD program was the MTF funding requirement. The cost of this medication mandated a careful evaluation of likely patient benefit.

At present approximately 140 patients have been approved for therapy through the DOD program. The issue of how to best deal with future high-cost drugs or drugs that benefit only a small number of patients is presently being debated at DOD. The Betaseron® program has served as an example of one successful approach.

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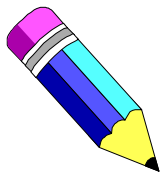
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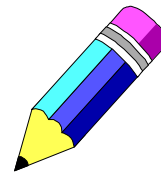
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Use of Update Articles

Medical treatment facilities (MTFs) often ask the PEC if an Update article can be reprinted in the local MTF staff newsletter. The answer, of course, is YES! The information published in the PEC Update can be used in any publication at the local MTF. Additionally, if your MTF has published articles, DUE criteria, innovative treatment strategies, or other information you feel will benefit all MTFs, the PEC can include this information in a future Update. The PEC welcomes your suggestions for future Updates. Please contact the PEC if you have any questions.



Pharmacoeconomic Center Newsletter Reader Survey



YOUR COMMENTS ARE IMPORTANT TO US! Your suggestions and ideas are appreciated to help improve the quality and utility of the PEC Update in your practice.

The Pharmacoeconomic Center (PEC) has been issuing an Update approximately once per month for the past year. We need your input so we can publish information that will be of greatest interest and use to our readers. The best way to obtain this input is by feedback from you, our reader.

Please take a few minutes of your time to complete the following survey. Any member of the health care team (MTF commanders, administrators, physicians, pharmacists, nurses, etc.) who reads the Update should complete this survey. If you routinely photocopy and distribute the Update, please copy and distribute a survey to each reader.

Instructions: Please complete all items, DO NOT OMIT ANY ITEMS. Your responses are needed and important. Please fax your completed surveys to DSN 471-4314 or commercial (210) 221-4314, or mail your surveys to the Pharmacoeconomic Center, ATTN AFZG DL, Bldg 4197, 2107 17th Street, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-5036. A response would be appreciated by **November 15, 1994**. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Section I: Background Information

Fill in the information requested or place an "X" in the appropriate box as shown: ☒

1. Name of facility where you are stationed: _____

2. Profession: ☐ Administrator ☐ Physician ☐ Physician Assistant ☐ Nurse
(select one) ☐ Dentist ☐ Pharmacist ☐ Other (please specify) _____

3. Professional Practice Area (if applicable): ☐ Family Practice ☐ Internal Medicine ☐ Surgery
☐ Pediatrics ☐ Psychiatry ☐ OB/GYN
☐ Other (please specify) _____

4. Position: ☐ Commanding Officer ☐ Staff (specify area) _____
☐ Chief of Service/Dept. Head (specify area) _____
☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. Employment status: ☒ Military ☐ Civilian ☐ Contract ☐ Other (specify) _____

6. Federal Service affiliation: ☐ Army ☐ Air Force ☐ Public Health Service
☐ Navy ☐ Coast Guard ☐ Dept. of Veterans Affairs
☐ Other (please specify) _____

7. Are you a member of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P & T) Committee? ☐ Yes ☐ No


Turn page to continue survey - please complete all questions.

8. a. Do you receive the PEC Update directly ? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- b. If you answered NO to Question 8a - How do you receive the PEC Update?
- ☐ routed through chain of command ☐ from another staff member
- ☐ from staff at another medical treatment facility ☐ from a pharmaceutical representative
- ☐ other source _____ ☐ do not receive PEC Update at all or regularly
9. How long after the publication date noted on the PEC Update do you receive your copy of the Update, if applicable?
- ☐ less than 1 week
- ☐ 1 to 2 weeks
- ☐ 3 to 4 weeks
- ☐ greater than 1 month

Section II. Information Preferences

Indicate the degree to which YOU find the following topics important for future PEC Updates by circling a number from 1 = not important to 5 = very important on the rating scale next to each item.

	1	2	3	4	5
	Not Important	Somewhat Not Important	Neutral	Important	Very Important
A. Abbreviated drug monographs	1	2	3	4	5
B. Adverse drug reaction information	1	2	3	4	5
C. Cost-effectiveness analyses in the literature	1	2	3	4	5
D. Current abstracts from the literature	1	2	3	4	5
E. Drug pricing information	1	2	3	4	5
F. Drug Use Evaluation (DUE) criteria in the literature	1	2	3	4	5
G. DUE criteria developed by the PEC	1	2	3	4	5
H. Health-related quality of life issues	1	2	3	4	5
I. National treatment guidelines	1	2	3	4	5
J. New drug approvals	1	2	3	4	5
K. Other medical treatment facility P & T Committee actions	1	2	3	4	5
L. Patient compliance information	1	2	3	4	5
M. PEC treatment guidelines	1	2	3	4	5
N. PEC schedule of activities	1	2	3	4	5
O. Pharmacoeconomic/clinical "pearls"	1	2	3	4	5
P. Preferred Drug List (PDL) information	1	2	3	4	5
Q. Prescriber compliance information	1	2	3	4	5
R. Other topics of importance or interest (please describe) _____					

Go to next page to continue survey - please complete all questions. 

Section III. Satisfaction Rating

Indicate the degree to which YOU are satisfied with the editorial content of the PEC Update by circling a number from 1 = extremely dissatisfied to 5 = extremely satisfied.

	1 Extremely Dissatisfied	2 Dissatisfied	3 Neutral	4 Satisfied	5 Extremely Satisfied
A. Information content					
B. Timeliness of information					
C. Length of the Update					
D. Accuracy of the information					
E. Format of the Update					
F. Global satisfaction with the PEC Update					
G. Other (please describe) _____					

Section IV. Miscellaneous Information

Fill in the information requested or place an "X" in the appropriate box as shown: ☒

1. The PEC should continue to publish the Update. ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. a. Would you like to receive the PEC Update directly? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already receive
- b. If you answered YES to question 2a -
In space provided, please indicate your correct mailing address and fax number. What is the preferred method of delivery? ☐ mail ☐ fax
3. What specific topics do you suggest the PEC evaluate for future Updates? Please provide any additional comments in the space provided below. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Please fold and staple or tape all pages of the completed survey, affix postage, and drop in the mail, *OR*
 Fax all pages of the completed survey to: **FAX - DSN, 471-4314; COM, (210) 221-4314**
 If problems occur with fax transmission, call: **PHONE - DSN, 471-4311; COM, (210) 221-4311**

Please submit your completed surveys to the PEC by November 15, 1994.

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
Fold on dotted line, staple or tape ends, and affix postage to mail.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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